



Welcome

Welcome to this week's newsletter

Government Opportunities (GO) magazine

All Health Care Supply Association members should be receiving a copy of *Government Opportunities (GO)* magazine as part of their membership. *GO* magazine is an indispensable guide to all that is happening in the fast-moving world of public procurement.

If you are not receiving your copy of this must-have magazine, please click [here](#) and request your copy today!

News

GP survey demonstrates need for reform - CBI

Commenting on a recent GP workload survey, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI)'s Director of Public Services, Neil Bentley, said: "Last week it was revealed that 10 million people can't book a doctor's appointment more than 48 hours in advance, and that millions of days of work are lost each year because of inflexible GP hours. This survey demonstrates yet again that the current system of primary health care needs reform. The Government must make this a priority." [More...](#)

New stroke thrombolysis treatment for patients

Blackpool Victoria Hospital is now offering a stroke thrombolysis service to patients who arrive at Accident and Emergency within two hours of the onset of stroke symptoms. [More...](#)

Agenda for change not 'overspent' but 'underfunded'

UNISON has criticised the Government for not providing sufficient money for NHS pay reforms. [More...](#)

Mental health foundation trust sector continues to grow

The mental health NHS foundation trust sector has been strengthened by the addition of three more trusts authorised by regulatory body Monitor, it has been announced. [More...](#)

Tackling obesity in Wales

A report detailing current public health initiatives and future proposals in reducing levels of obesity in Wales has been published by the National Public Health Service for Wales (NPHS). [More...](#)

NHS inpatient and outpatient waiting times figures

At the end of June 2007, the number of patients, for whom NHS Commissioners in England are responsible, waiting over 26 weeks for

inpatient and outpatient treatment was 312. Of these 312, six were English residents waiting in Welsh hospitals. [More...](#)

News can be read at: <http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk>

This Week's Reports

[Improvement Review of Adult Community Mental Health Services](#)

The Healthcare Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection have published this national review of adult specialist community mental health services. It looks at areas where there has been a steady improvement in the range and quality of services available and identifies areas requiring more change and improvement.

[Drug misuse: Opioid detoxification - Guidance](#)

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published this guidance, which makes recommendations for the treatment of people who are undergoing detoxification for opioid dependence arising from the misuse of illicit drugs. It has also published information on understanding the guidance for patients, carers and the public.

[Acutely Ill Patients in Hospital: Guidance](#)

This clinical guidance describes how patients in acute hospitals should be monitored to help identify those whose health becomes worse, and how they should be cared for if this happens. It covers all adult patients in hospital, including patients in the emergency department being admitted to hospital, and those being moved between departments. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has also published information on understanding the guidance for patients, carers and the public.

[PL CMO \(2007\)6: Additional £50 million for healthcare-associated infections and update on requirements for clostridium difficile reporting](#)

This Professional Letter provides information on the new funding for healthcare-associated infections announced on 4 July 2007, and reminds staff of new reporting arrangements for clostridium difficile infection.

Reports can be found at:

<http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk/reports/>

Events

[PASS - Delivering Sustainable Public Procurement](#)

This one-day event, held on 13 September at Holiday Inn City Centre, Birmingham, will help you understand the viability of environmental issues in contracting.

The event is designed to help all public procurement professionals understand how organisations can take into account social, environmental and sustainability considerations and still deliver value for money, while remaining compliant with the EU Public Procurement Directives.

Delivering compliant procurement

Public authorities are under pressure to ensure that their procurement makes a positive contribution towards social inclusion, secures improvements to the environment and minimises any adverse environmental impact.

Sustainable procurement is good procurement

Opting for environmentally sound goods, services and works helps your organisation achieve sustainable development. Increased demand for sustainable goods encourages sustainable production and helps environmentally friendly technologies conquer the market. It can also help save taxpayers' money.

Practising positive social procurement

Criteria involving social considerations may be used to determine the most economically advantageous tender, where they provide an economic advantage for the authority which is linked to the product or service, and which is the subject of the contract.

Integrating social, environmental and sustainability issues into your procurement

All public authorities should be developing national or regional contracts that ensure social, environmental and sustainability issues are considered from the outset. The Government has raised the profile of sustainable procurement across the public sector with a major shift in the way the public sector buys goods and services, signing up to a range of measures designed to achieve the sustainable buying of a wide variety of products.

The new emphasis on environmental standards represents a significant shift in public sector purchasing practice.

Whilst the full benefits of social, environmental and sustainable procurement will not be achieved overnight, this event will help your organisation put in place the structures to support and encourage all involved to develop compliant practices.

Update your diary by visiting

<http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk/events/index.htm>

Discussion Forum

Do you have a burning issue or a hot topic that you wish to share with members? Then why not post it on the Discussion Forum in the members area of the website.

To read the current topics, or to begin your own discussions, visit the Health Care Supply Association Discussion Forum by clicking [here](#)

Health Care Supply Association www.healthcaresupply.org.uk
Members Area - Hosts Access to CPV Codes Online, Members Directory, Members Discussion Forum, World-wide Procurement Links & Contract Search Services, as well as E-tendering and Electronic Supplier List Facilities, for further information on these services please visit <http://www.bipsolutions.com/Delta/delta.html>

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